

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 04504 100740Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SSM-03 OMB-01 /073 W

----- 072452

R 091033Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6299

INFO USUN NEW YORK 649

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 4504

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. NEWLY ARRIVED EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, MOSTAFA RATEB ABDEL WAHAB PAID INITIAL CALL ON AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 7. DURING THE CONVERSATION, WAHAB EXPRESSED EGYPT'S STRONG DESIRE THAT A GENEVA MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE BE HELD AS SOON AS PRACTICAL IN 1977. HIS VIEW IS THAT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS WERE NEVER BETTER. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT DELAY WILL DAMAGE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE MODERATE ARAB LEADERS AND REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FINAL SETTLEMENT. WAHAB SAID HE HOPES THE US WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING THE CONFERENCE.

2. WAHAB ALSO EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE PLO WILL BE PERMITTED TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

3. EMBASSY WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT WAHAB HAD COME TO COLOMBO FROM THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN EGYPT'S WASHINGTON EMBASSY. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR GOT STRONG IMPRESSION FROM WAHAB THAT HE HAD ONLY BEEN AT THE UN. WOULD BE USEFUL TO US IF DEPT WOULD SEND BIO INFORMATION ON WAHAB AS REQUESTED COLOMBO A-75.

REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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